

**THE COMPLETE
GUIDE TO
BARBER
HALVES**



By David Lawrence



The Complete Guide to
BARBER HALVES

by
David Lawrence



Virginia Beach, Virginia

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This book is dedicated to Lynn and Nancy,
the true journalists in the family.

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The book was enhanced by information from Larry Briggs, Walter Breen, David Lange and my highly capable "research staff" of Phil Carrigan and Steve Epstein. Greg Reff of Gemini Numismatics Inc. kindly lent us the 1900-S branch mint proof/specimen, and a North Carolina collector who wishes to remain anonymous did the same with a similar 1906-D. Another collector from the Mid West drove several hundred miles to Tom's studio with the coins we needed to complete the date set photographs.

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The 1892-P variety pictures were provided by J.T. Stanton, the photo of Charles Barber, by R.W. Julian, the Barber Half pattern photos by Charles Rand of the Smithsonian and the photo of the author, by Paul Gilkes of Coin World.

FOREWORD

This is the third and final book of the Barber series. THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO BARBER QUARTERS was published in 1989 and THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO BARBER DIMES was issued earlier this year.

The Barber Half series is widely collected. In lower grades (AG to VG) the set is easily assembled and quite affordable, but as the grades get higher, the task becomes more formidable. In mint state, 22 of the 73 dates have an R4 rarity rating, and nice examples of some are extremely hard to find.

Barber halves were actively circulated during their time and most of the survivors were probably melted during the 1979/80 silver boom. The remaining pieces are largely found in G and VG condition if common dates, AG condition if early scarce dates. Only one of every 5-10,000 minted have remained in mint state to this day. In contrast, proofs were saved. Though they only numbered in the hundreds for a given year, it looks as if half are still available.

There seems to be only one true rarity — the 1892-O micro O — with less than a dozen known specimens in all grades. However, quite a few dates are scarce in original AU55 condition. Also, many New Orleans dates are rare in fully struck condition.

Though neglected for many years, Barber coinage has now come of age. All three series have enjoyed considerable price appreciation for F through AU grades in the last two years and, with supply not up to demand, the trend is likely to continue. For investors, these series offer many opportunities. If "big money" ever switches its attention from common Walking Liberty Halves and Morgan Dollars to Barbers, these coins are in for a wild ride.

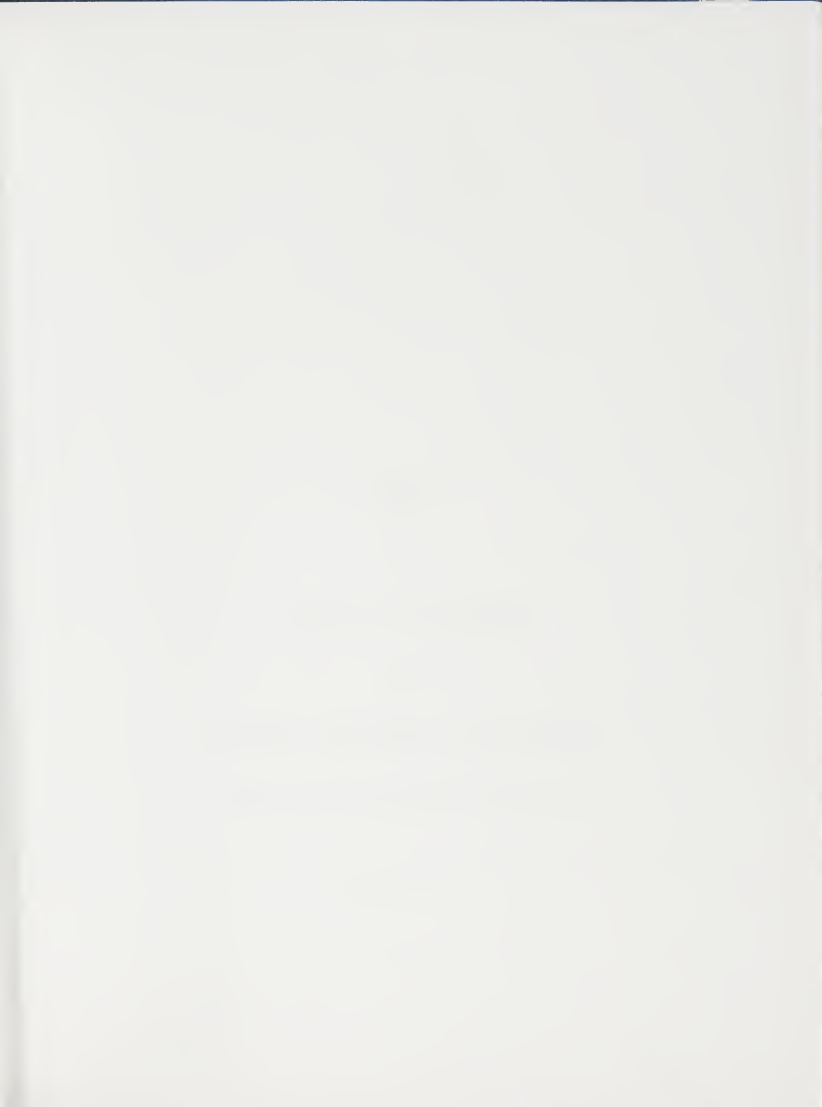
DAVID LAWRENCE
Virginia Beach, Virginia
October, 1991

Chapter 1



History of the Series, Major Design Changes & Error Coinage





HISTORY OF THE SERIES

This history first appeared in "The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters" and has been modified here to focus on the half dollars. The quarter book has a more complete discussion of the Barber patterns.

THE COINAGE

In the 1880s the U.S. silver coinage of dimes, quarters and half dollars was the British-inspired Liberty Seated design. The obverse of these series had remained basically unchanged since 1837 and there was a general feeling among artists and federal officials alike that our coinage had a second-rate appearance, particularly in comparison with French designs.

In his annual report for 1887, Mint Director James P. Kimball lamented the "inferiority of our coinage" compared to other advanced nations. He wanted "distinguished" artists engaged to redesign the American coins. But, believing he lacked authority, Kimball turned to the legislature. At his request, Sen. Justin S. Morrill (R-VT) presented a bill authorizing the Treasury Department to redesign coins in use at least 25 years. This bill, which passed on September 26, 1890, allowed design changes for dimes, quarters and half dollars after 1891.

The Treasury Department initially decided to hold a design competition among 10 of the most distinguished artists in America. However, the artists jointly complained that the preparation time allowed was too short (less than 2 months) and the "compensation altogether insufficient." They wanted \$100 for each sketch or \$500 for each completed plaster model, plus a grand prize of \$1,000 for each design used — a fortune at that time. Shocked at the demands, the Treasury instead arranged for a public competition to be judged by sculptor August Saint-Gaudens, Boston gem and seal engraver Henry Mitchell and chief mint engraver Charles Barber.

The results were unsatisfactory. They were bound to be because St. Gaudens believed that, outside of France, only he was competent to do such designs and Barber thought he himself was the only one capable (Taxay). On July 3, 1891, the committee wrote to Treasury Secretary Charles Foster: "None of the designs or models submitted are such a decided improvement upon the present designs ... as to be worthy of adoption by the Government. We would respectfully recommend that one or more artists distinguished for work in designing and relief, be engaged at suitable compensation..." In fact, Kimball's successor as Mint director, Edward O. Leech, called the competition a "wretched failure." Only two of the 300 designs submitted had been accorded an honorable mention.

Leech favored having Barber do the redesign. "Our engraver at Philadelphia is the only



J1766 – One of Barber's Earlier Patterns for the Half Dollar

(Photo courtesy Smithsonian Institution)

CHARLES EDWARD BARBER



Born in London on November 16, 1840, Charles E. Barber came from a long line of distinguished British engravers. In 1852 he came to the United States with his father, William, who practiced his profession of engraving and die making first in Boston and then in Providence, R.I. When his father was appointed chief engraver of the Mint in 1869, Charles became an assistant engraver at the Philadelphia facility. In 1879 William Barber died and Charles was appointed to his father's position by President Rutherford B. Hayes. On January 20, 1880 he became the sixth chief engraver of the United States Mint. In addition to the dime, quarter and half dollar series that bear his name, Charles Barber designed the Liberty (V) nickel, one of the \$4 gold Stellas, several U.S.

commemoratives, foreign coins and many medals. He died suddenly on February 18, 1917 at the age of 77 while still in office.

competent person to prepare these designs," Leech was quoted in the Boston Transcript of July 31, 1891. "Of course he receives no additional compensation for this. It is part of his regular work. I do not see any prospect of getting designs elsewhere in this country. We might get them in France... But the people of the United States would never forgive us if we went outside this country for our designs. To be sure, our designer is of an English family, but he is regularly in the employ of the mint" (Taxay p 288).

A few days later, Leech defended his choice of Charles Barber to R.W. Gilder, art critic for Century Magazine, saying that Barber "comes from three generations of mint engravers and designers and has done excellent work in coin designing, and is in every way equipped for this important duty." He added that Barber had prepared some designs that met with his and engraver Henry Mitchell's approval, though some changes needed to be made.

Barber's original obverse design was, like the Liberty Seated series, modeled after English coinage. It shows Columbia standing with Liberty pole and sword in front of an eagle — possibly inspired by the Una and the Lion gold pattern created for Queen Victoria in 1839 (Julian). Leech rejected the design and ordered the obverse to have a Liberty head similar to several French bronze and silver coins of the Third Republic. The mint director wanted to retain the reverse of the seated dime, but ordered that the reverse of the quarter and half dollar bear the national standard.

On September 12, Mint Superintendent Oliver C. Bosbyshell sent Director Leech plaster models that had been made by Barber from designs approved earlier. Bosbyshell agreed with Barber's cover letter comment that the reverse wreath was too large and should be reduced. In his response, Leech criticized several aspects of the reverse design, specifically that the figure of the eagle did not correspond with the U.S. Great Seal in use at that time. Leech disliked the ribbon, with Latin motto, passing in front of the eagle's neck. And he thought the olive branch ought to have 9, not 13, leaves. For the obverse, Leech thought the stars should be 6 pointed, not 5. Irritated by suggestions late in the modeling process, Barber vigorously defended his designs. "I have used 13 leaves to conform to the 13 stars and 13 arrows believing there should be unity in these numbers, also significance," he wrote Bosbyshell. "I know of no authority for saying 9 leaves



J1763 – Pattern of the Final Barber Half Dollar Design

(Photo courtesy Smithsonian Institution)

are more used than any other number and very much question the correctness of the statement.” (Later, Leech visited the National Botanic Gardens to examine olive stems.)

In a second letter to Bosbyshell, Barber wrote of the stars: “Six pointed stars are English while 5 points are used by France, Holland and Germany, and also by the United States upon the flag... I prefer 5 points for use on the present occasion for the following reason. The largest of the proposed coins is one-seventh the size of the model, and I think when you consider how small that would bring the stars, 5 points are more easily distinguished from a round dot, than 6, but as I remarked to you I see no objection to using 6 if preferred, as either number is equally correct.”

In October, Barber agreed to omit the wreath from the reverse and submitted new models. One had the scroll passing in front of the eagle's neck, 13 olive leaves and 13 arrows; the other had the scroll passing behind the neck, with only 9 olive leaves and 9 arrows. The models were studied by Leech and Treasury Secretary Foster. Both thought the ribbon looked best behind the neck, but could not agree on the number of leaves and arrows.

Later in the month, Barber submitted three patterns for the half dollar. The first omitted rays from around the eagle (presumably Judd #1765), the second had 6-pointed stars on the obverse, a larger eagle and no wreath (presumably Judd #1764), and the third was similar but had the ribbon passing behind the eagle's head (either Judd #1762 or a pattern that is currently unknown). Leech selected the obverse with the 6-pointed stars because it was the “richer” of the two, but remained undecided about the reverse design.

In early November two more patterns were forwarded to Leech. These had a common obverse with 6-pointed stars. Of the reverses, one had clouds above the eagle (again, possibly Judd #1762). The other, without clouds, was probably Judd #1763. All patterns were then sent to President Benjamin Harrison. On November 5, 1891 he and his cabinet made their choice: The pattern without clouds. Four years after James Kimball had called for new U.S. coinage, a design had been chosen.

The first Barber coin was struck at the Philadelphia Mint at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 2, 1892. In 1900, the obverse hub was changed (see Major Design Changes). Barber halves were minted through 1915 when, after the minimum 25 years, they were succeeded by Adolph A. Weinman's “Liberty Walking” design. The Barber coins saw extensive usage and most were worn down to AG condition. Though many years had mintages of more than a million, in most issues less than a few hundred survive in mint state.

MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES

HUB CHANGES:

A new obverse hub was introduced in 1901. Coins of both hubs can be found in 1901-Q and S. Proofs of 1901 are from the Type I hub, while business strikes seem to be of Type II. The difference is most readily detected at Liberty's ear. In the Type II hub the ear has a fuller lobe and a clearly defined rib of central cartilage (Lange). Breen reports minor hub changes in 1908 and 1912, but I have been unable to discern the differences he describes.



Obverse 1900
Type I Hub



Close-up of Liberty's Ear
Type I Hub



Obverse 1902
Type II Hub



Close-up of Liberty's Ear
Type II Hub

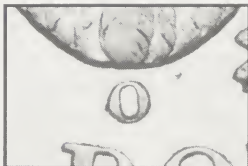
MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES

MINT MARK CHANGES:

New Orleans: Most New Orleans Barber Halves have a medium sized "O." Some of the later years (1903 & 1905) seem to also have a more wide open "O." It may turn out to exist on other years as well. A micro-O mint mark — the size of the "O" used on the Barber Quarter — can be found on some halves in 1892. Beistle also reported it for the 1898-O. These coins are rare.

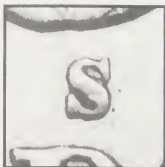


Regular 'O'

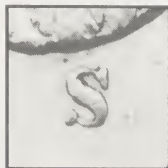


Wide Open 'O'

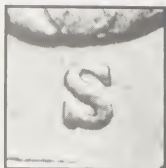
San Francisco: At least four types of "S" mint marks can be identified in the series. Early dates, 1892 - 1898 have a well rounded, closed mint mark (Type A). The Type B, found also on 1898 halves, is more open. The third "S" (Type C) is straighter and can be found at least as early as 1899. It seems to be the predominant shape until late in the series when a very thin "S" appears (Type D). Some years have several mint mark shapes and some mint marks do not exactly fit the description of any of these four types. This is an area which could use further study.



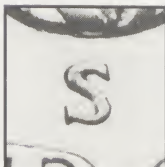
'S' Mint Mark – Type A



'S' Mint Mark – Type B



'S' Mint Mark – Type C



'S' Mint Mark – Type D

ERROR COINAGE

All major errors of Barber halves are very scarce. Shown here are two of the more spectacular ones. The first, a full brockage half from the San Francisco Mint (shown at right), is believed to be unique. The coin has no obverse. In its place is an incuse mirror-image of the reverse because the reverse of another coin acted as the die. This half was purchased by Oregon coin dealer Steve Estes in 1972 at Lyle Clark in San Diego. It had been received in change by a teller at Caliente Race Track in Tijuana, Mexico in 1926. Bets were 50 cents at that time and supposedly it was the bettor's last half dollar, taken from a special place in his wallet. The teller was nearly 90 when he sold it to Steve and had kept it in a small leather pouch for the 46 years. The coin was sold to dealer Harlan White in 1976 as part of a large deal and has since passed through a number of hands (including the author's.) It is currently owned by Sharon and Jerry Bobbe, professional numismatists from Oregon, who vow they "will never sell it." The Bobbes kindly lent the coin to be photographed.



**Normal Reverse
of Brockage Half**



**Incuse, Mirror-image
Reverse of Brockage Half**

The photo (below) of the off-center half is provided courtesy of COIN WORLD Collectors' Clearinghouse. It appeared in their July 17, 1987, issue and subsequently in the Spring 1991 journal of the BCCS. Off-center Barber dimes and quarters are sometimes offered on the bourse floor, but halves are rarely seen.



**Barber Half Dollar
Struck Off-Center**

Chapter 2



Grading





GRADING

Barber Halves are an easy series to grade but, like many U.S. coins, the strike must be taken into consideration. Coins from the New Orleans Mint are often weakly struck, lacking detail on Liberty's forehead and wreath on the Obverse. On the reverse, weakness is manifested along a vertical path from the right corner of the shield down to the eagle's claw.

Coins wear continuously, not in discrete steps, and the different standard grades represent levels in the process. It is not surprising that coins often fall between grades and so called "split grades" have come into standard use in today's market.



AG 2 (ABOUT GOOD)

The rim is worn away on both obverse and reverse sides.



G 4 (GOOD)

OBVERSE: Details of Liberty's wreath are completely worn. The rim is usually complete.

REVERSE: The rim is not quite complete in earlier years (1892 - 1899). In later years it will be complete, but not three-dimensional.



G 6 (GOOD/VERY GOOD)

The rim is complete on both sides.

OBVERSE: Some of Liberty's wreath detail will show, also the beginning of the word LIBERTY. Usually the "L."

REVERSE: The rim will be complete for all but the most poorly struck years (1898-O for example).



VG 8 (VERY GOOD)



OBVERSE: Three letters of LIBERTY show, usually the L, T and Y. Liberty's head wreath will show more detail. The rim will show three-dimensional-ity.

REVERSE: The design will show more three-dimensionality than in the previous grade.



VG 10 (VERY GOOD/FINE)



This and the following three grades are determined almost entirely from the obverse, barring damage and problems on the reverse.

OBVERSE: Five of the letters in LIBERTY will show.

REVERSE: More detail will start to appear in the eagle's wings.



F 12 (FINE)



OBVERSE: All seven letters in LIBERTY can be seen, though the BER may be weak. Liberty's wreath will start to fill out.

NOTE: On 1909-P, O & S issues the word LIBERTY is protected and these coins often technically grade Fine, but lack wreath detail (see photo).

REVERSE: The wreath will show more detail.





F 16 (FINE/VERY FINE)

OBVERSE: LIBERTY is almost complete with only a slight weakness in the lower part of the BER. Liberty's wreath will be almost complete, but well worn.



VF 20 (VERY FINE)

OBVERSE: The word LIBERTY is complete. Liberty's head wreath will show considerable three-dimensionality, with weakness in the area closest to the her eye.

REVERSE: The eagle's wing feathers will be almost complete, with the top feather of each wing starting to show.



VF 30 (VERY FINE/EXTRA FINE)

OBVERSE: The band under LIBERTY will begin to show at both ends. The word LIBERTY will be fairly bold.

REVERSE: On many issues, the top wing feathers will be outlined.



XF 40 (EXTREMELY FINE)

OBVERSE: The band under LIBERTY is complete, though weak. The forehead shows three-dimensionality and slight detail.

REVERSE: The top wing feathers are outlined and three dimensional.



**XF 45 (EXTREMELY
FINE/ALMOST UNCIRCULATED)**



OBVERSE: There is three-dimensionality to the band under LIBERTY and detail to the hair over the forehead. A hint of luster may be present around the periphery.

REVERSE: The coin has sharp three-dimensional detail and often some luster around the periphery.



**AU 50
(ABOUT UNCIRCULATED)**



Surface is important in this grade. Both sides of the coin should have some mint luster, unless the coin is dark or cleaned.

OBVERSE: All details are complete with only slight signs of rub. The hair over the forehead is three-dimensional. Liberty's cheek will be slightly flat.

REVERSE: All details are virtually complete.



**AU 55 (CHOICE ABOUT
UNCIRCULATED, SLIDER)**



On both sides this coin is close to mint state. Only the slightest signs of wear will be detectable and the coin usually has nice luster.

OBVERSE: There is very slight rub on Liberty's cheek and a few light wear lines in the field. NOTE: O-mint coins generally lack sharp hair detail on the forehead.

REVERSE: A few light wear lines will show in the field. Wing tips will be complete, unless softly struck. O-mint coins often lack detail in a vertical path running through the right corner of the shield and eagle's left (to our right) claw.



MS 60-70 (MINT STATE)

This coin has not been in circulation, but may have picked up marks from mishandling, sliding album pages, or stacking. Halves are heavy and bag marks are generally significant. "Dipped" coins may qualify for mint state, but not those which have been mechanically cleaned. Surfaces of the latter have been impaired and signs of wear may be obliterated.

Toning subdues luster and can hide friction. Such coins are difficult to grade and sometimes fool professionals. Relying on third-party grading is recommended for coins grading MS 63 and higher and for lower grade uncirculated coins when there is a large price difference between grades.

OBVERSE: Liberty's cheek may show light lines or marks. The fields may have "hits" or scratches, but light lines in the fields are usually a sign of circulation (and/or cleaning). Luster should be uniform and unbroken throughout the fields and devices.

REVERSE: There must be no sign of circulation. If not dark, the coin will be lustrous.

NOTE: It is easier to determine if the coin is mint state from the obverse than the reverse, because of the plain cheek.

Chapter 3



Estimating Scarcity



ESTIMATING SCARCITY

As every coin collector knows, scarcity is not always consistent with original mintage figures. Over the years some dates get lost, melted or saved more than others. The first and last years of a mint (1906-D, 1909-O) tend to be preserved in higher grades as do the first and last dates of the series.

A date's relative scarcity is indicated by its "Rarity Rating," which varies from R1 to R8. Factors considered in estimating scarcity are the original mintage, the populations of certified coins (PCGS & NGC), the historical value, the number of times the date appears on customer "want lists" and the results of a survey made by the BCCS among its members.

The RARITY RATINGS are defined as follows:

- R1** – Common.
- R2** – A better date. Available at most shows, but in limited quantity.
- R3** – A tough date. Only a few likely to be found at larger shows.
- R4** – Scarce. May or may not be available at larger shows.
- R5** – Very Scarce. Only a few will appear at large shows or auctions in a year's time.
- R6** – Extremely Scarce. Almost never available.
- R7** – Rare. Only a few exist.
- R8** – Unique or almost so.

GRADES G-VG

R7: 1892-Micro O

R3:	1892-O,S	1898-O	1910-P
	1893-P,O,S	1899-S	1913-P
	1894-P	1901-S	1914-P
	1896-P,O,S	1904-O,S	1915-P
	1897-O,S	1905-P,O	

R2:	1892-P	1901-O	1907-S
	1894-O,S	1902-O,S	1908-S
	1895-P,O,S	1903-P,O,S	1909-O
	1898-S	1905-S	1911-D
	1899-O	1906-S	1913-D,S
	1900-O,S		

R1: All the rest.

GRADES F-VF

R8:	1892-Micro-O		
R5:	1898-O	1904-S	
R4:	1892-O,S (Fine)	1897-O,S	1904-O
	1893-O (Fine)	1898-S	1905-O
	1893-S	1899-S	1910-P
	1894-P	1900-O	1913-P
	1895-O,S	1901-O,S	1914-P
	1896-O	1903-P	1915-P
R3:	1892-P	1896-P,S	1905-P
	1892-O,S (Very Fine)	1899-O	1906-S
	1893-P	1900-S	1907-S
	1893-O (Very Fine)	1902-O,S	1908-S
	1894-O	1903-O,S	1913-S
	1895-P		
R2:	1894-S	1905-S	1909-O,S
	1897-P	1906-O	1911-D,S
	1904-P	1908-P	1913-D
R1:	All the rest.		

GRADES XF-AU

R8:	1892-Micro O		
R6:	1897-O	1904-S	
R5:	1893-S	1898-O	1907-S
	1896-O	1901-S	1913-P
	1897-S	1904-O	1915-P
R4:	1894-P	1901-O	1906-O,S
	1895-O,S	1902-S	1908-S
	1896-S	1903-P,S	1914-P
	1900-O	1905-P,O	
R3:	1892-O,S	1899-O,S	1911-D,S
	1893-P	1902-O	1913-S
	1894-O	1903-O	1914-S
	1896-P	1909-O,S	
	1898-S	1910-P	
R2:	1893-O	1900-S	1910-S
	1894-S	1904-P	1912-S
	1895-P	1905-S	1913-D
	1897-P	1908-P	
R1:	All the rest.		

MINT STATE

R7:	1892-Micro O		
R6:	1896-O	1904-S	
R5:	1893-S	1901-O,S	1905-S
	1898-S	1902-S	1907-S
	1900-O,S	1903-P	
R4:	1896-S	1899-S	1904-PO
	1897-S	1902-O	1908-S
	1898-O	1903-O	1911-S
R3:	1894-S	1903-S	1910-S
	1895-O,S	1905-P	1913-PS
	1896-P	1906-O	1915-P
	1897-O	1909-O,S	
R2:	1892-O,S	1901-P	1911-D
	1893-PO	1905-O	1912-S
	1894-PO	1906-D,S	1913-D
	1895-P	1907-D	1914-PS
	1897-P	1908-P	
	1899-PO	1910-P	
R1:	All the rest.		

Chapter 4



Year & Mint-Mark Analysis



Notes on Chapter 4: Census figures are based upon June 1991 population reports. Values listed for 1947 and 1991 are taken from the 1st and 44th edition of "The Guide to United States Coinage" (also referred to as the "Red Book"), a popular retail price guide. CDN values are bid, or wholesale, figures from the June 1991 issue of the "Coin Dealer Newsletter, Monthly Summary," and June 14, 1991, issue of the "Certified Coin Dealer Newsletter." Values for proofs in 1991, both wholesale and retail, are for Proof 63 grade examples.

1892



Mintage: 935,245 (Ranking 19/73)

Proofs: 1,245 (Ranking 24/24)

Varieties: A triple reverse die and a repunched date

No. 101 – 1892 RPD (photo by J. T. Stanton). Also, reverse with heavy die break from leg – across arrow heads to wing.

No. 102 – Triple reverse die (photos by J. T. Stanton). Noted by Beistle (1929)

Scarcity: Tough in low grades, G - VF, available in XF, common in AU and above because they were saved as the first year of issue. In mint state, the most common date of the series with more than twice as many certified as any other date (see Table 1)

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2+, F/VF R3, XF-AU R1, MS R1.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 468 (Ranking 73/73).

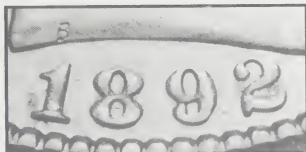
Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 263 (Ranking 24/24) = 21.1% of mintage

Value:

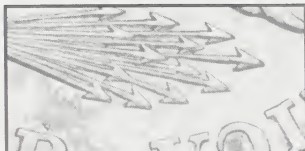
	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	13	11.50
F	1.75	30.	30.
XF	—	165.	140.
MS60	4.	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635
PRF	12	1500.	905

Comments: As the first year of issue this coin comes well struck with nice luster. As of June 1991 there were a total of 44 certified MS65, 15 MS66 and 5 MS67 by PCGS and NGC combined.

**1892-P
(con't)**



No. 101 1892-P RPD



No. 102 1892-P, Triple Reverse Die



No. 102 1892-P, Triple Reverse Die



No. 102 1892-P, Triple Reverse Die



No. 102 1892-P, Triple Reverse Die

1892-O



Mintage: 390,000 (Ranking 4/73)

Varieties: There are two mint mark sizes. The regular mint mark is a "medium-o." The "micro-o" may have resulted from the use of the mint mark for the quarter.

No. 101 – 1892-O micro-o (photo).

Scarcity: **(Regular mint mark)** – Tough to find in full rimmed G - VF30 Available and overrated in XF and above.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F R4, VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total PCGS/NGC = 89 (Ranking 55/73).

(Micro-O) - Extremely scarce in all grades, but some may still be discovered. Larry Briggs helped with the following estimate of actual coins which have turned up to date: 2 low grade with rough surfaces; 1 AG; 1 G/VG; 1 VG cleaned; 1 VG/F with old obverse scratch; 1 lightly cleaned and retoned; 4-5 mint state (all semi-p/l). One of the latter graded MS61 by ANACS.

Rarity Rating: R7 all grades.

Value (Regular O):	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	100.	58
F	2.50	150.	130.
XF	—	375.	320.
MS60	12.	900.	750.
MS63	—	—	1,150.

Value (Micro O): The AG is currently worth about \$300, the G/VG about \$750. The MS coins would probably bring \$5,000 and up, depending on market conditions. Since there are so few coins known the price is determined by the seller. The above values are current estimates. In 1974 a coin graded "unc. 65-70" (lot 343 Paramount/Long Beach Sale) brought \$2500. According to the catalogue, another uncirculated specimen, not as nice, brought \$3100 in the Reed Hawn Sale (1973) and a third brought \$2000 in the Cox Sale in 1962.

1892-O (con't)

Comments:

Like the 1892-S and most other early dates in the series, the obverse tends to be stronger than the reverse. Probably 95% of the existing specimens exist as G/AG coins, with the reverse worn far into the design. The micro-o is a cherry picker's dream coin. It seems likely that there are still a few to be found.

Some coins of this date are well struck, but perhaps 30-50% are not. A little weakness on the reverse near the upper right corner of the shield is typical, but very weakly struck coins should be discounted.



No. 101 1892-O Micro-O



1892-O. Regular O Enlargement



No. 101 1892-O Micro O Enlargement

1892-S



Mintage: 1,029,028 (Ranking 22/73)

Varieties: A Micro-S, similar to that of the Micro-O, is supposed to exist, but this has to be confirmed. It was listed in Taxay (1971) among other places, but evidently not known in 1929 (not listed in Beistle)

Scarcity: Tough to find in full rimmed G to VF+. Available in XF and overrated in AU and MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F R4, VF R5, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total PCGS/NGC = 54 (Ranking 40/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	100	75
F	3.50	150	135
XF	—	375	300
MS60	17.50	1,000.	650.
MS63	—	—	1,700.

Comments: Perhaps 95% of this date exist as G/AG (G obverse, AG reverse). This is typical of most Barber Halves before 1898. Also, these same dates tend to have much stronger obverses than reverses so that it is not unusual to find almost VG detail on the front of coins that lack full reverse rims. High grade coins are generally well struck with nice luster.

1893



Mintage: 1,826,792 (Ranking 44/73)

Proofs: 792 (Ranking 18/24)

Varieties: Beistle lists reverse with recut "Dollar."

Scarcity: Typical early date in the series. Fairly tough in low grades, slightly more available in AU and above.

Rarity Rating: R3 from G - AU, R2 in MS.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 81 (Ranking 54/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 192 (Ranking 13/24) = 24.2% of mintage.

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	10.	7.50
F	2.	25.	29.
XF	—	175.	120.
MS60	3.50	500.	355.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.50	1,500.	905.

Comments: Usually well struck with nice luster.

1893-O



Mintage: 1,389,000 (Ranking 33/73)

Varieties: Beistle reports a proof, and in a business strike, a reverse with recut legend.

Scarcity: Scarce in full rimmed G to F15, more available as the grade gets higher. Overrated in AU and MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F R4, VF R3, XF-AU R2, MS R2.

Total PCGS/NGC = 69 (Ranking tied for 48/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	16.	12
F	3.	40.	36.
XF	—	235.	210.
MS60	12.50	675.	490.
MS63	—	—	1,200.

Comments: Only about half are well struck, the rest more typical of later O-mints. As of June 1991, no gems (MS65 or higher) had been certified.

1893-S



Mintage: 740,000 (Ranking 13/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Extremely scarce F and higher. Like the 1893-O, no gems had been graded as of June 1991.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, R5 above VG10.

Total PCGS/NGC = 25 (Ranking tied for 11/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	50.	37.
F	4.	110.	90.
XF	—	350.	280.
MS60	17.50	900.	775.
MS63	—	—	1650.

Comments: Like other early dates, the vast majority probably exist as G/AG. In F and VF reverses usually have about one grade more detail than obverses. Comes well struck with nice luster.

1894



Mintage: 1,148,972 (Ranking 27/73)

Proofs: 972 (Ranking 23/24)

Varieties: Breen reports a proof with a repunched 4. Beistle lists reverse with entire legend and stars recut.

Scarcity: One of the hardest dates to find in G and VG and underrated in all grades XF and below. Second most common proof in the series.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R5, XF-AU R4, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 63 (Ranking 46/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 260 (Ranking 23/24) = 26.7% of mintage.

Value:

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	10.	6
F	1.75	25.	35.
XF	—	175.	140
MS60	4.	500.	400.
MS63	—	—	725.
PRF	8.50	1500.	905.

Comments: Far scarcer in lower grades than its mintage implies and hoarded by knowledgeable collectors. Comes well struck with nice luster.

1894-O



Mintage: 2,138,000 (Ranking 49/73)

Varieties: Two obverses listed in Beistle: oblique date with high 4 (die crack through center of 4 & 4 and through stars 12 & 13); Low date with low 4. One reverse with recut legend. Another reverse with diagonal die crack through TED, across TAT and to edge.

Scarcity: Tough in G-VF, but available XF-MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total PCGS/NGC = 57 (tied for 41/73).

Value:

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	9.	6
F	2.50	30.	35.
XF	—	210.	195.
MS60	20.	600.	365.
MS63	—	—	1,100

Comments: Typical O-Mint strike. Usually softly struck along a vertical line that runs through upper right hand corner of shield. About 60-75% are poorly struck, some horribly so.

1894-S



Mintage: 4,048,690 (Ranking 68/73)

Varieties: The so called "high and low S" mint marks are just degrees of many mint mark positions, common in all dates of the series. Breen also reports a mint mark far to the right of the normal position. Beistle and Spadone list a "recut U. S. America." Another reverse with fine die crack along lower edge of bust (Beistle).

Scarcity: With the 1895-P, this is the most available of the early dates in G and VG. It is tougher in F and VF, but overrated in XF and higher. Gems are currently over priced (CDN MS65 = \$13,000!).

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R2, XF-AU R2, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 46 ((Ranking tied for 31/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8	6
F	2.50	25.	33.
XF	—	195.	155
MS60	17.50	525.	350.
MS63	—	—	880.

Comments: Comes P/L and also "bright," presumably from polished dies. One of the highest mintages of the series, however many low grade pieces were melted in the 1979/80 silver boom.

1895



Mintage: 1,835,218 (Ranking 45/73)

Proofs: 880 (Ranking 21/24)

Varieties: Breen reports a repunched 1 in some proofs.

Scarcity: Along with the 1894-S, the most available of the pre-1897 dates in G and VG. Tough in F to XF, but can be found in AU and MS. As of June 1991, 10 MS65, 1 MS66 and 1 MS67 were certified by PCGS & NGC.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R2, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 69 (Ranking tied for 48/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 234 (Ranking 22/24) = 26.6% of mintage.

Value

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	5.50
F	1.75	25.	29.
XF	—	175.	110.
MS60	4.	500.	355.
MS63	—	—	840.
PRF	8.50	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster as evidenced by the high number of gems certified.

1895-O



Mintage: 1,766,000 (Ranking 43/73)

Varieties: A branch-mint proof has been attributed by Breen

Scarcity: Not easy to find in full rimmed G to VF30. Slightly more available as the grade gets higher. Typically, an XF will be a bit shy of having a full band under LIBERTY, while having full wing top feathers on the reverse.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R4, XF-AU R3, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 47 (Ranking 34/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	9.	5.50
F	2.50	30.	32
XF	—	180	170
MS60	20	600.	400.
MS63	—	—	1,000.

Comments: Typical O-mint strike with softness on Liberty's hair (Obverse) and along a vertical passing through the right corner of the shield and eagle's claw (Reverse). Well struck coins are worth a premium.

1895-S



Mintage: 1,108,086 (Ranking 23/73)

Varieties: Obverse with fine die crack from T in LIBERTY to stars 7, 8 & 9 (Beistle). A reverse with fine cracks.

Scarcity: A semi-key date in low grade and extremely tough in F & VF. Sometimes available, for a price, in AU and MS..

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2+, F-VF R4, XF R4, AU R3, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 49 (tied for 35/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	16.	11.
F	2.75	37.50	35.
XF	—	180.	190.
MS60	18.50	525.	375.
MS63	—	—	800.

Comments: Comes sharply struck with nice luster. Sometimes P/L. Very strong collector demand in VG10 to XF.

1896



Mintage: 950,762 (Ranking 20/73). **Proofs:** 762 (Ranking 16/64)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Business strikes are scarce in all grades.

Rarity Rating: R3 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 39 (Ranking tied for 26/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 187 (Ranking 12/24) = 24.5% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	9.	7.50
F	1.75	30.	28.
XF	—	175.	145.
MS60	4.	525.	365.
MS63	—	—	825.
PRF	12.50	1500.	905.

Comments: Despite its low mintage this date is generally overlooked and underrated. Comes well struck with nice luster. Proofs are not as valuable as business strikes.

1896-O



Mintage: 924,000 (Ranking 16/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A tough date that gets scarcer as the grade gets higher. In mint state, second only to the 1904-S among regular issues. Of the 13 MS certified as of June 1991, 2 are gems.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS R6.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 13 (Ranking 2/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	16.	11.
F	2.75	40.	55.
XF	—	250.	275.
MS60	20.	900.	850.
MS63	—	—	1950.

Comments: O-mint strike, but better than most years. Nice luster. Collectors will have a difficult time finding the lower MS grades. Only 2 have been certified as of June 1991.

1896-S



Mintage: 1,140,948 (Ranking 26/73)

Varieties: Obverse with fine die cracks across lower edge of bust to last star [Beistle]

Scarcity: Scarce in all grades.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 26 (Ranking 13/73)

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	50	38.
F	4.50	80.	75.
XF	—	325.	275
MS60	22.50	1050	860.
MS63	—	—	1700.

Comments: Sharply struck with nice luster. Comes so nice that as of June 1991, none of the MS had been certified less than MS63! Like other S-mints, sometimes found with planchet striations (due to worn out roller fingers during planchet stock preparation)

1897



Mintage: 2,480,731 (Ranking 55/73)

Proofs: 731 (Ranking 13/24)

Varieties: Breen reports a repunched 97

Scarcity: Not really a common date. Definitely scarcer than the later dates, especially in F to MS

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, R2 in higher grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 73 (Ranking tied for 52/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 201 (Ranking tied for 18/24) = 27.5% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.75	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	4.50	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	15.	1500.	905.

Comments: Well struck with nice luster. Ten of the certified MS are gems.

1897-O



Mintage: 632,000 (Ranking 10/73)

Varieties: Reverse with die crack from edge through D in DOLLAR to end of left wing and S in STATES (Beistle).

Scarcity: Extremely tough F to MS63. Almost never see a nice original XF or AU. The scarcest date in the set from AU to MS62, but gems are available. Most existing coins are low grade with AG reverses.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF- MS63 R6, R3 in MS64 and 65.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 37 (Ranking 24/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	50.	32.
F	4.	80.	150.
XF	—	450.	525.
MS60	22.50	1250.	1100.
MS63	—	—	1900.

Comments: Though sometimes softly struck like all O-mints, this date comes nice. As of June 1991 there were 14 MS65 and 1 MS66 certified by PCGS & NGC. Expect to pay a significant premium for nice original mid-grade coins.

1897-S



Mintage: 933,900 (Ranking 18/73)

Varieties: None known

Scarcity: Almost as tough as the 1897-O in F to MS62. Like the 1892-O & S, the vast majority have AG reverses. Full rimmed Goods command a good price.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R4, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 33 (Ranking tied for 20/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	85.	55.
F	4.50	140.	165.
XF	—	400.	425.
MS60	18.50	1100.	950.
MS63	—	—	1950

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster, but most collector grade coins have been cleaned. Very hard to find with original color.

1898



Mintage: 2,956,735 (Ranking 62/73)

Proofs: 735 (Ranking 14/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common early date, but scarcer than the common later dates in the series

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 100 (Ranking 59/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 230 (Ranking 21/24) = 31.3% of mintage.

Value

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.75	23.	18
XF	—	130.	105
MS60	4.	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	12.50	1500	905.

Comments:

Comes nice as evidenced by 14 having been certified MS65 or better. Typical of the series, the number of certified proofs is more than double the number of mint state business strikes. There were 4,000 times as many business strikes made as proofs, which provides an idea of survivorship of coins which are made for general circulation.

1898-O



Mintage: 874,000 (Ranking 15/73)

Varieties: Breen has attributed a specimen as a branch-mint proof. Beistle lists a reverse with a "very small mint mark."

Scarcity: Very scarce F to MS63. Because of low mintage and weak strikes, this is the toughest date in the set in F and VF – XF and AU's are always in strong demand

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R5, XF-AU R5, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 27 (Ranking 14/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	15.	10.
F	3.50	37.50	45.
XF	—	235.	245.
MS60	18.50	675.	550.
MS63	—	—	1500.

Comments: Comes with nice luster and often with at least one side P/L, but softly struck. The majority of existing coins have AG reverses, though many may have been melted in 1979/80 because the date carries little value in low grade. It is common to find coins with full VG obverses which lack full reverse rims.

Well struck coins and those with original color are worth a premium.

Beistle's small mint mark coin is also listed in Breen. Has anyone seen it lately?

1898-S



Mintage: 2,358,550 (Ranking 52/73)

Varieties: One reverse from a "shattered die" – extensive fine cracks. Legend is also recut (Beistle).

Scarcity: A "Philippine Hoard" date. (Coins were sent by U.S. Government to the Philippines for coinage during the turmoil of the times. Many were hoarded in XF and AU condition and show up in the U.S. from time to time. They are usually cleaned.) Because of its history, this coin is tougher than its mintage implies in G to F15. Quite scarce in MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R4, XF-AU R3, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 21 (Ranking 7/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	5.50
F	2.75	25.	26.
XF	—	165.	150.
MS60	17.50	550.	450.
MS63	—	—	1300.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. Mid-grade coins with original color are scarce. The 1899-S and 1900-S have a similar history, but the 1898-S is the scarcest of the three.

1899



Mintage: 5,538,846(Ranking 73/73)

Proofs: 846 (Ranking 20/24)

Varieties: Some proofs show slight repunching on base of 1 (Breen). One regular die with crack above DOLLAR on reverse (Beistle).

Scarcity: A common date with the highest mintage in the set. Still, not as abundant as some of the later dates of the series.

Rarity Rating: R1 all circulated grades, barely R2 in MS

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 97 (Ranking tied for 58/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 178 (Ranking 10/24) = 21.0 % of mintage.

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.75	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	4.	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	12.50	1500	905

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. Probably heavily melted in low grade in 1979/80. First year I have seen with evidence of die buckling ("mumps" variety).

1899-O



Mintage: 1,724,000 (Ranking 40/73)

Varieties: None reported.

Scarcity: A better date, especially in F to XF.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 57 (Ranking tied for 41/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	---	8.	5.50
F	2.50	25.	30.
XF	---	200.	170.
MS60	13.50	600.	420
MS63	---	---	1150

Comments: Typical O-mint strike, but better than some dates. Sometimes comes P/L. Probably overrated from AU through MS.

1899-S



Mintage: 1,686,411 (Ranking 39/73)

Varieties: Breen reports a clearly doubled S. There are also at least three types of mint marks (see page 7). One obverse with 2 die cracks (Beistle).

Scarcity: Tough from G4 to F15 and in MS. Available in XF and AU, often cleaned.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R3, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 30 (Ranking tied for 16/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	9.	5.50
F	2.50	25.	29.
XF	—	165.	145.
MS60	15.	525.	400.
MS63	—	—	1100.

Comments: A Philippine hoard date. See comments under 1898-S. Comes well struck with nice luster.

1900



Mintage: 4,762,912 (Ranking 60/73)

Proofs: 912 (Ranking 22/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common date, typical of the early middle years of the series. Not as common as some later dates.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 104 (Ranking 61/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 197 (Ranking 17/24) = 21.6% of mintage

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.50	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.50	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.50	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1900-O



Mintage: 2,744,000 (Ranking 61/73)

Varieties: Can find with slight "mumps."

Scarcity: Much scarcer than mintage indicates, especially in higher grades. Gene Edwards ranked this as the toughest of all Barber Halves in gem fully struck condition (or nearly so).

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R4, XF-AU R4, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 22 (Ranking 7/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	5.50
F	2.50	25.	29.
XF	—	200.	190.
MS60	25.	675.	525.
MS63	—	—	1600.

Comments: A typical O-mint strike with perhaps 60-85% being softly struck. Only 1 gem has been certified as of June 1991. Interestingly, only 1 MS60-62 coin has been certified and it is therefore difficult for collectors to obtain nice, but reasonably priced coins for their sets.

1900-S



Mintage: 2,560,322 (Ranking 58/73)

Varieties: At least two types of mint marks, A & C. A coin auctioned in the Akers & RARCOA 1991 Chicago sale was described as a branch mint proof (Proof 64) or SPECIMEN strike. Breen agreed that the coin is obviously distinctive and made for some special purpose. The base of the 1 of this coin is repunched (Photo by Mulvaney). One die has a distinctive die crack across the lower neck just above the date. In later die states the crack runs lightly up on both sides through the stars. Another light crack runs from the hair clip up through Liberty's bun and to the E of WE.

Scarcity: Fairly tough from F12 - VF20, available from VF30 to AU50. Surprisingly scarce in MS
Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R2, MS R5
Total MS PCGS/NGC = 20 (Ranking 4/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	5.50
F	2.50	24.	25.
XF	—	165.	145.
MS60	17.50	525.	385.
MS63	—	—	1300.

Comments: A Philippine hoard date and the most available of the three years. Very underrated in MS as of this writing.

Comes well struck with nice luster, but sometimes with planchet striations.

1900-S
(con't)

Specimen/Branch-Mint Proof



Branch-Mint
Proof/Specimen
Obverse & Reverse
Photos with
accompanying
opinion letter by
Walter Breen



Box 352
Berkeley, CA 94701
August 11, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin and that I unhesitatingly declare it genuine and as described below.

It is a 1900-S half dollar, struck from brilliantly polished dies on a polished blank, apparently for presentation purposes. It was lot 583 in The Akers & Rarocha 1991 Chicago Sale (8/9-10/91), where called "Proof-64 Deeply and colorfully toned Branch Mint Proof or Specimen Striking." My only question about its proof status arises from the coin's rims which are not as "squared" as the devices, stars or letters, and from the clasp holding arrows, which is less happy than the remainder. Nevertheless, the coin is obviously extremely distinctive, made for some special purpose which could hardly be anything but presentation. It is the first such 1900-S half dollar I have seen.

Grade of 1 is repunched, a distinctive die.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Breen

1901



Mintage: 4,268,813 (Ranking 69/73)

Proofs: 813 (Ranking 19/24)

Varieties: New obverse hubs for business strikes, proofs are from old hubs. Some with slight "mumps."

Scarcity: A common date in circulated grades, but better in MS.

Rarity Rating: R1 all circulated grades, R2 in MS.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 62 (Ranking tied for 44/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 194 (Ranking 14/24) = 23.9% of mintage.

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.50	24	18
XF	—	140.	105.
MS60	3.50	500.	310
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.50	1500.	905

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. Note there were more than three times as many proofs as MS business strikes certified as of June 1991.

1901-O



Mintage: 1,124,000 (Ranking 25/73)

Varieties: According to Lange, can be found with both the old and new obverse hubs, with the Type I twice as scarce as the Type II.

Scarcity: Scarce above VG. Edwards regarded this as the second toughest date in the series in gem fully struck condition.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R4, XF-AU R4, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 24 (Ranking tied for 8/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.50	5.50
F	5.	30.	33.
XF	—	350.	220.
MS60	60.	1100.	950.
MS63	—	—	2100.

Comments: Poorly struck as a rule. As of June 1991, only 1 gem had been graded (an MS66). Also, as of June 1991 this date carried the highest CDN Monthly Summary bid in MS65 (\$15,000, no "ask.")

1901-S



Mintage: 847,044 (Ranking 14/73)

Varieties: Both new and old obverse hubs, with the Type I hub coins being about three times as common as the Type II (Lange). One obverse with fine die crack at end of bust.

Scarcity: Scarce above VG. Historically, considered the scarcest date in the set in MS and still tough. However, recent enumeration by the certification services place it third (see Appendix)

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS high R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 17 (Ranking 3/73).

Value	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	13.	9.
F	15.	45	60.
XF	—	450	400
MS60	150.	1400.	1100
MS63	—	—	2600

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. By far the most valuable date in the set in 1947. On almost everyone's want list from F to MS63.

1902



Mintage: 4,922,777 (Ranking 71/73) **Proofs:** 777 (Ranking 17/24)

Varieties: None known. All have Type II hubs.

Scarcity: Common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 109 (Ranking 62/73)

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 165 (Ranking tied for 7/24) = 21.2% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.50	3.75
F	1.50	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.50	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.50	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. Proofs of this date and later have semi-brilliant devices instead of frosted (Breen).

1902-O



Mintage: 2,526,000 (Ranking 57/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Despite its high mintage, scarce in F and above, especially well struck

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 30 (Ranking tied for 16/73)

Value:

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8	5
F	3.	25.	28.
XF	—	170.	140.
MS60	22.5	675	500.
MS63	—	—	1450.

Comments: Consistently one of the poorest struck coins in the series. Well struck coins are worth a premium and very few, if any, exist in MS. Luster seems to be below average as a rule.

1902-S



Mintage: 1,460,670 (Ranking 35/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Fairly scarce F - MS63, but gems are around for a price [9 graded as of June, 1991]

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 24 (Ranking tied for 8/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	5.
F	5.	25.	30.
XF	—	175.	150.
MS60	50.	600.	400.
MS63	—	—	1300.

Comments: Lower mintage than the 1902-O, but about equal scarcity in F-XF because it comes with a better strike.

1903



Mintage: 2,278,755 (Ranking 50/73)

Proofs: 755 (Ranking 15/24)

Varieties: None known

Scarcity: One of the real "sleepers" in the series. Much tougher than its mintage indicates in all grades.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R4, XF-AU R4, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 24 (Ranking tied for 8/73)

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 186 (Ranking 11/24) = 24.6% of mintage

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.50	23.	18
XF	—	150	105
MS60	3.50	500	310
MS63	—	—	635
PRF	8.50	1500	905.

Comments: Where have they all gone? Nice, original lustrous specimens are extremely hard to find. They must have been melted in some as yet unknown action. This coin is underrated and undervalued.

1903-O



Mintage: 2,100,000 (Ranking 48/73)

Varieties: A regular "O" and "wide open "O" mint mark.

Scarcity: Like most O-mints, scarcer than mintage indicates.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 35 (Ranking 22/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	4.25
F	3.	25.	29.
XF	—	165.	140.
MS60	30.	600.	425.
MS63	—	—	1150.

Comments: Typical O-mint strike. Some with slight "mumps."

1903-S



Mintage: 1,920,772 (Ranking 46/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Scarce F-XF. Available for a price in higher grades.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 45 (Ranking tied for 29/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	4.25
F	5.	25.	29.
XF	—	175.	160.
MS60	45.	600	400.
MS63	—	—	1100.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1904



Mintage: 2,992,670 (Ranking 63/73)

Proofs: 670 (Ranking 9/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Fairly scarce for a P-mint of high mintage. Underrated in all grades above VG. Extremely tough in MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R2, XF-AU R2+, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 33 (Ranking tied for 20/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 215 (Ranking 20/24) = 32.1% of mintage.

Value:

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.5	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.5	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	10	1500	905

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. Pick this coin off in MS if you can. Most dealers will sell it as a common date. Note that proofs are about seven times as available as uncirculated specimens.

1904-O



Mintage: 1,117,600 (Ranking 24/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Scarce F and above. Extremely tough VF30 to MS62.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS R4

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 32 (Ranking 19/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	10	6.40
F	2	35	35
XF	—	275	230
MS60	17.5	1100	900
MS63	—	—	1650

Comments: Comes with nice luster, but often poorly struck. High grade specimens historically bring very strong prices at auction. In June 1991 this date carried the second highest price in MS65 in the CDN (\$14,000), yet seven gems had been graded.

1904-S



Mintage: 553,038 (Ranking 8/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Scarcest date in the set in most grades above VG10

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R5, XF-AU R6, MS R6.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 11 (Ranking 1/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	13.	8.5
F	7.5	50.	55.
XF	—	350.	375.
MS60	60.	1100.	1100.
MS63	—	—	2200.

Comments: Though it should come nice, several of the MS certified specimens are toned and relatively lackluster. This coin has the lowest certified population in MS and often commands a large premium.

1905



Mintage: 662,727 (Ranking 11/73)

Proofs: 727 (Ranking 12/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A better date, but more common than its mintage suggests.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R3

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 46 (Ranking tied for 31/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 165 (Ranking tied for 7/24) = 22.7% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	10	7.
F	1.75	30.	33
XF	—	200.	170
MS60	3.5	650.	400
MS63	—	—	1175
PRF	10.	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes with a decent strike, but luster seems to be variable.

1905-O



Mintage: 505,000 (Ranking 6/73)

Varieties: The mint mark is the "wide open" variety.

Scarcity: Scarce F12 to vf30 because of low mintage and poor strike. Surprisingly available in MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R4, MS R2+

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 52 (Ranking tied for 38/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	11.	7.
F	3.5	40.	39.
XF	—	235.	195.
MS60	17.5	700.	550.
MS63	—	—	1200.

Comments: Rarely comes nice. Usually lackluster and poorly struck, sometimes with "mumps." Circulated specimens have strong collector demand above VG.

1905-S



Mintage: 2,494,000 (Ranking 56/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Like the Philippine hoard dates, 1898-S to 1900-S, this coin is readily available in most circulated grades. On the other hand, it is very tough from AU55 through MS.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R2, XF-AU R2, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 25 (Ranking tied for 11/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	4
F	3.	25.	26.
XF	—	170.	145.
MS60	15.	600.	370.
MS63	—	—	1250

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. A sleeper in MS (like the 1910-S) and underrated.

1906



Mintage: 2,638,675 (Ranking 60/73)

Proofs: 675 (Ranking 10/24)

Varieties: Beistle lists a narrow edge variety having only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the usual reeding.

Scarcity: A common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 148 (Ranking 68/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 195 (Ranking tied for 15/24) = 28.9% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.75	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.5	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	10.	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes with decent strike and nice luster. One of the few dates where availability of MS specimens is close to that of proofs.

1906-D



Mintage: 4,028,000 (Ranking 67/73)

Varieties: Proof or presentation piece(s) exist (photo). The lightly circulated specimen shown here has deep mirror surfaces on both sides, but lacks a wire rim. It was purchased at the 1991 ANA in Chicago by a private North Carolina collector who kindly allowed us to photograph it. B. Max Mehl offered one described as having a "brilliant proof" obverse and "brilliant uncirculated" reverse in his Golden Jubilee Sale, 1950.

Obverse with 3 fine die cracks (Beistle).

Scarcity: A common date, but slightly better in MS.

Rarity Rating: R1 in all circulated grades, R2 in MS.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 90 (Ranking tied for 56/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4
F	2.25	24.	21
XF	—	140.	115
MS60	7.5	500.	315
MS63	—	—	635

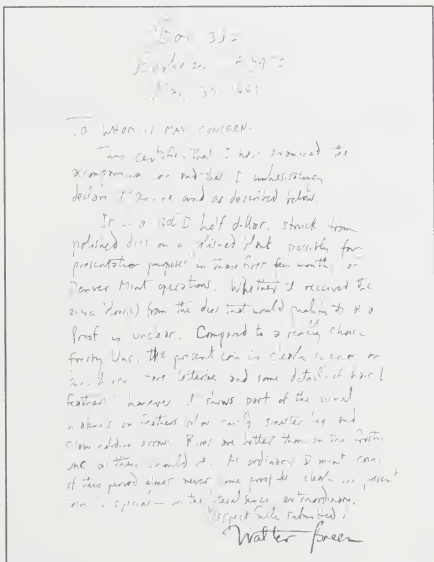
Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. This was the first year of the Denver Mint and specimen coins of other denominations are also known. The coin shown here may well be unique.

1906-D
(cont)

Specimen/Branch-Mint Proof



Branch-Mint
Proof/Specimen
Obverse & Reverse
Photos with
accompanying
opinion letter by
Walter Breen



1906-O



Mintage: 2,446,000 (Ranking 54/73)

Varieties: Obverse with die crack from edge through last star on right and along truncation of bust. Reverse with die crack from lower part of D and along base of HALF (Beistle)

Scarcity: Common in low grades, tough to find from VF30 to MS62.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R2, XF-AU R4, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 41 (Ranking 28/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4
F	2.75	24.	24
XF	—	150	125
MS60	15.	600	400
MS63	—	—	825

Comments: Poorly struck, some with "mumps."

1906-S



Mintage: 1,740,154 (Ranking 41/73)

Varieties: At least two types of mint marks, "A" and "C."

Scarcity: Hard to find F to AU, despite fairly high mintage.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 50 (Ranking 37/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.5	24.	30.
XF	—	185.	145.
MS60	20.	600.	390.
MS63	—	—	800.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster, but sometimes with planchet striations. A few coins have been found with light "mumps." Enjoys strong collector demand F and above

1907



Mintage: 2,598,575 (Ranking 59/73)

Proofs: 575 (Ranking 6/24)

Varieties: Recut legend (Beistle).

Scarcity: A common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 137 (Ranking 64/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 139 (Ranking 2/24) = 24.2% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.5	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.5	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.5	1500.	905

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1907-D



Mintage: 3,856,000 (Ranking 65/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common date, slightly better in MS.

Rarity Rating: R1 in all circulated grades, R2 in MS.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 90 (Ranking tied for 56/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.	24.	21.
XF	—	140.	115.
MS60	7.5	500.	315.
MS63	—	—	635.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1907-O



Mintage: 3,946,600 (Ranking 66/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: One of the few O-mints readily available in most grades, but not in well-struck condition.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 103 (Ranking 60/73)

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2	24	21
XF	—	140.	115
MS60	10	5.25	335
MS63	—	—	635

Comments: Probably the worst struck coin of the Barber Half series, but does come with nice luster. "Mumps" specimens are fairly common and most exaggerated in this date

1907-S



Mintage: 1,250,000 (Ranking 29/73)

Varieties: A repunched mint mark, which is fairly common. Also, an obverse with a fine die crack runs across lower edge of bust to last star (Beistle).

No. 101 - 1907-S/S. The first S shows clearly at the top of the second (photo)

Scarcity: Very scarce XF and above.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R5, MS R5.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 21 (Ranking tied for 5/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	8.	4
F	3.	25.	29.
XF	—	180.	195.
MS60	17.5	600.	400.
MS63	—	—	1550.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. This is the scarcest late date of the series in MS. Strong collector demand in most grades above VG8.



No. 101 - 1907-S, RPM

1908



Mintage: 1,354,545 (Ranking 31/73)

Proofs: 545 (Ranking 4/24)

Varieties: Hub possibly changed again (Breen). If so, difference is slight.

Scarcity: A slightly better date above VG.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R2, XF-AU R2, MS R2

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 66 (Ranking 47/73)

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 134 (Ranking 1/24) = 24.6% of mintage

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.5	23	18.
XF	—	130	105.
MS60	3.5	500	310.
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.5	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. A bit underrated and frequently on want lists.

1908-D



Mintage: 3,280,000 (Ranking 64/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Common date. Readily available.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 134 (Ranking 63/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	1.5	23.	23.
XF	—	130.	107.5
MS60	7.5	500.	315.
MS63	—	—	635.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1908-O



Mintage: 5,360,000 (Ranking 72/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common date. The second highest mintage of the series and always available.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 144 (Ranking tied for 65/73)

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4
F	2	23	21
XF	—	130	115
MS60	9	500	315
MS63	—	—	635

Comments: Often a bit softly struck, but with nice luster. "Mumps" specimens are not unusual. As of June, 1991, there were more gems graded than any date except the 1892-P (22 MS65, 14 MS66, 8 MS67).

1908-S



Mintage: 1,644,828 (Ranking 38/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Hard to find F to MS63. Good collector demand.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R4, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 28 (Ranking 15/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.5	24.	29.
XF	—	175.	145.
MS60	20.	550.	440.
MS63	—	—	1325.

Comments: Comes nice as a rule, but sometimes with light "mumps." Underrated because of fairly high mintage.

1909



Mintage: 2,368,650 (Ranking 53/73)

Proofs: 650 (Ranking 8/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 175 (Ranking 70/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 195 (Ranking tied for 15/24) = 30.0% of mintage

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.5	23	18.
G-VG	—	130	105.
MS60	3.5	500	310
MS63	—	—	635.
PRF	8.	1500	905

Comments: Comes nice. In lower grades the word LIBERTY stands out more than for other years. Apparently the halves minted this year (all three mints) come from different hubs, though this has not been previously reported (see GRADING). It is not unusual for coins with full LIBERTY to have substantially less detail on the rest of the coin than would be expected, presenting a grading paradox.

1909-O



Mintage: 925,400 (Ranking 17/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Overrated in most circulated grades, but tougher from AU through MS

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R2, XF-AU R3, MS low R3

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 49 (Ranking tied for 35/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	6.
F	2.	25.	30.
XF	—	225.	200.
MS60	12.5	750.	550.
MS63	—	—	1500.

Comments: Comes with nice luster, but somewhat softly struck. Sometimes with slight "mumps." Because of a protected LIBERTY (see 1909-P), can be found in F, VF and XF grades. Obverse weakness is manifested by lack of hair detail over the forehead in AU and MS.

1909-S



Mintage: 1,764,000 (Ranking 42/73)

Varieties: None known

Scarcity: Underrated VF to MS63. Probably scarcer than the 1909-O in these grades; despite its higher mintage.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R2, XF-AU R3, MS high R3

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 36 (Ranking 23/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4
F	2.5	23	20
XF	—	160	135
MS60	17.5	625	385
MS63	—	—	950

Comments: Comes nice. The word LIBERTY is usually strong (see Continents, 1909-P). Sometimes with slight mumps.

1910



Mintage: 418,551 (Ranking 5/73)

Proofs: 551 (Ranking 5/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Very scarce F to XF40. Somewhat more available in higher grades.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 62 (Ranking tied for 44/73)/

Total PRF/NGC = 172 (Ranking 9/24) = 31.2% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	9.	6.
F	2.	30.	40.
XF	—	225.	200.
MS60	3.5	600.	440.
MS63	—	—	1100.
PRF	9.	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster. As the fifth lowest mintage of the series G and VG coins are often hoarded. I have seen a "1910-D" counterfeit in low grade, similar to those noted by Breen for 1914.

1910-S



Mintage: 1,948,000 (Ranking 47/73)

Varieties: Most mint marks are of the Type C, but some Type B also exist (see MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES).

Scarcity: Common in low grades, but surprisingly tough in AU55 and above, where it is scarcer than the 1910-P.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R1, XF-AU R2, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 38 (Ranking 25/73).

Value:

	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4
F	3	23.	21
XF	—	160.	135.
MS60	17.5	550	375
MS63	—	—	1450

Comments: Comes nice. Sometimes with slight mumps. Underrated in higher grades.

1911



Mintage: 1,406,543 (Ranking 34/73)

Proofs: 543 (Ranking 3/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: A common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 145 (Ranking 67/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 201 (Ranking tied for 18/24) = 37.0% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.5	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	3.5	500.	310.
PRF	9.	1500.	905.

Comments: Comes nice. Though the 543 proofs made is third lowest for the series, a fairly high percentage have been certified making them readily available.

1911-S



Mintage: 1,272,000 (Ranking 30/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Available in lower circulated grades, but surprisingly tough AU55 through MS. Much scarcer than the 1911-D in these grades.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R2, XF-AU R3, MS R4.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 31 (Ranking 18/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.5	23.	23.
XF	—	150.	125.
MS60	17.5	550.	375.
MS63	—	—	860.

Comments: Comes nice. Underrated in MS.

1912



Mintage: 1,550,700 (Ranking 35/73)

Proofs: 700 (Ranking 11/24)

Varieties: Breen reports another hub change in this year. If so, it is quite minor. One die with a crack from the bust to the last star and crack from edge opposite IN across the head through the E in LIBERTY to the edge. A Reverse also has die cracks along the base of HALF DOLLAR (Beistle).

Scarcity: A common date.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 164 (Ranking 69/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 164 (Ranking 4/24) = 23.4% of mintage

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.25	23	18
XF	—	130	105
MS60	3.5	500	310
MS63	—	—	635
PRF	9	1500	905

Comments: Comes nice.

1912-D



Mintage: 2,300,800 (Ranking 51/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Probably the most common date in the series G - XF.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 184 (Ranking 71/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.	23.	20.
XF	—	130.	107.50
MS60	8.5	500.	315.
MS63	—	—	635.

Comments: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1912-S



Mintage: 1,370,000 (Ranking 32/73)

Varieties: An obverse with die crack from edge through 2 and 10 left star (Beadley)

Scarcity: A common date in low grades, but gets tougher with increasing grade

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R1, XF-AU R2, MS high R2

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 52 (Ranking tied for 38/73)

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	55	4
F	2.75	23	21
XF	—	150	125
MS60	17.5	925	365
MS63	—	—	660

Comments: Comes nice.

1913



Mintage: 188,627 (Ranking 3/73)

Proofs: 627 (Ranking 7/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Available in G and VG but hoarded. Very scarce F to AU58. Proofs are available and priced as common dates.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 45 (Ranking tied for 29/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 151 (Ranking 5/24) = 24.1% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	18.	12.
F	2.5	40.	60.
XF	—	250.	250.
MS60	5.	900.	650.
MS63	—	—	1500.
PRF	12.	1800.	905.

Comments: Comes nice and several gems have been certified. Proofs are sometimes substituted for MS specimens in collections because there are many more of them.

1913-D



Mintage: 534,000 (Ranking 7/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: More available than its mintage implies in all grades. In MS it is little better than a common date.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R2, XF-AU R2, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 72 (Ranking 51/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	2.25	25.	25.
XF	—	150.	135.
MS60	9.	525.	360.
MS63	—	—	635.

Comments: Comes nice. Availability is probably due to it being a late date in the series. The coin is sometimes hoarded in G and VG.

1913-S



Mintage: 604,000 (Ranking 9/73)

Varieties: There are at least two mint mark shapes, one of which is extremely thin. There is an obverse with fine die crack from edge through 3 to the end of bust and to the edge.

Scarcity: Scarcer than the 1913-D, despite a higher mintage. Enjoys fairly strong collector demand from F - MS63.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R2, F-VF R3, XF-AU R3, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 46 (Ranking tied for 31/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.
F	3.5	25.	30.
XF	—	175.	145.
MS60	30.	625.	400.
MS63	—	—	1100.

Comments: Comes nice. Sometimes hoarded in low grades.

1914



Mintage: 124,610 (Ranking 1/73)

Proofs: 380 (Ranking 1/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Scarce VG10 through AU58. Available in MS because it was saved, but rare in general condition (for some unexplained reason). Proofs are currently available.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R4, MS R2

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 58 (Ranking 43/73).

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 144 (Ranking 4/24) = 37.9% of mintage.

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	25	14
F	25	100	125
XF	—	350	350
MS60	5	900	675
MS63	—	—	1350
PRF	15	2000	905

Comments: Comes nice. Mintage of proofs is lowest in series by a wide margin, but this date has the highest percentage of its proof mintage certified. The extremely low mintage combined with low prices of G and VG coins attracts a lot of attention and they are often hoarded. However, potential hoarders should note that G and VG prices have been stable for several years. In contrast, F to AU coins have enjoyed considerable appreciation because collector demand exceeds supply.

1914-S



Mintage: 992,000 (Ranking 21/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Fairly common in G through F12, but tougher in XF and AU.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R1, F-VF R1, XF-AU R3, MS R2.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 69 (Ranking tied for 50/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	4.25
F	2.5	25.	24.
XF	—	165.	135.
MS60	18.5	550.	365.
MS63	—	—	860.

Comments: Comes nice. Underrated in XF and AU. Like other inexpensive low mintage dates, is sometimes hoarded in G and VG.

1915



Mintage: 138,450 (Ranking 2/73)

Proofs: 450 (Ranking 2/24)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Last of the "big three" (1913-P, 1914-P, 1915-P). Available in G and VG, but very scarce F - AU58. Actually, the toughest of the three in most better grades, including MS. Proofs bring only a little more than common date proof prices.

Rarity Rating: G-VG R3, F-VF R4, XF-AU R5, MS R3.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 39 (Ranking tied for 26/73)

Total PRF PCGS/NGC = 141 (Ranking 3/24) = 31 3% of mintage

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	18.	13.
F	3.5	60.	65
XF	—	275.	270
MS60	7.5	850.	750
MS63	—	—	1500
PRF	27.5	1900	905

Comments: Comes nice. Second lowest proof mintage and third lowest number of proofs certified to date. Similar to the 1913-P and 1914-P in most respects.

1915-D



Mintage: 1,170,400 (Ranking 28/73)

Varieties: None known.

Scarcity: Fairly high mintage and last year of series makes it readily available.

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

Total MS PCGS/NGC = 233 (Ranking 72/73).

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	1.75	23.	18.
XF	—	130.	105.
MS60	8.	500.	310.
MS63	—	—	635.

Comments: Comes nice.

1915-S



Mintage: 1,604,000 (Ranking 3//73)

Varieties: Mint mark is typically the "C" shape, but a more rounded version can also be found.

Scarcity: Common date

Rarity Rating: R1 all grades.

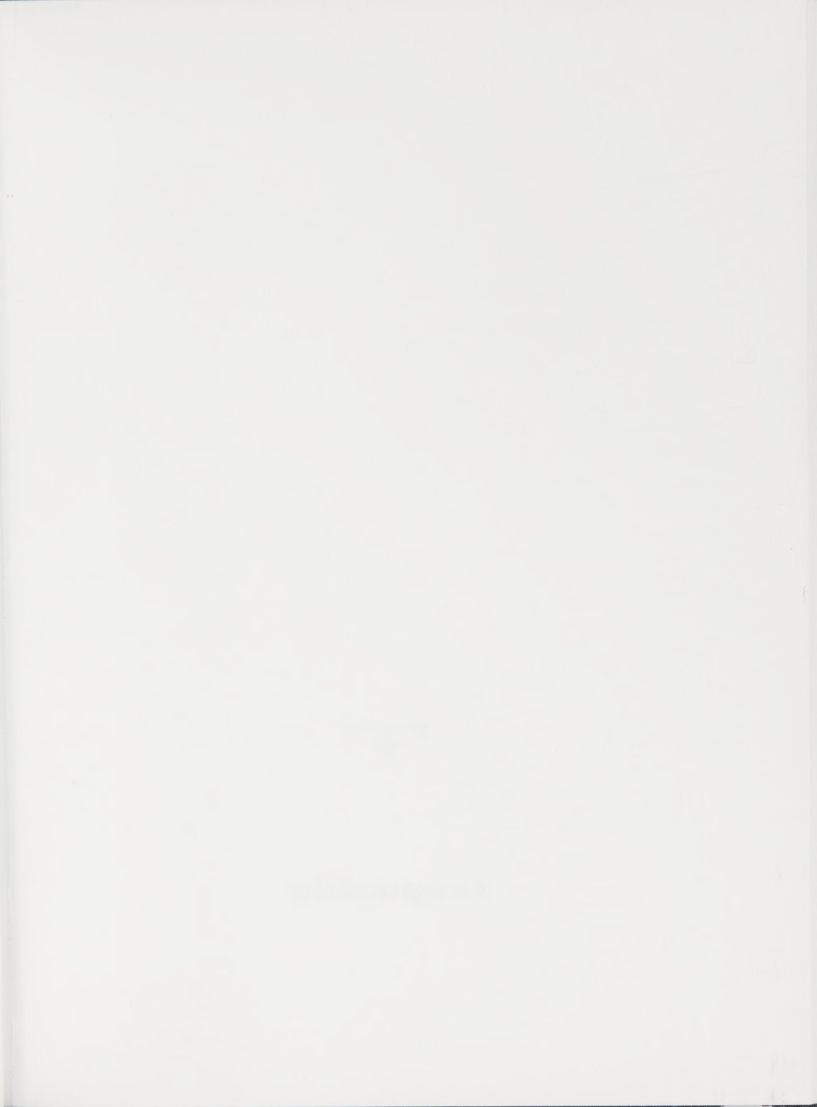
Total MS PCGS/NGC = 144 (Ranking tied for 65/73)

Value:	1947	1991	CDN
G	—	5.5	3.75
F	2.5	23	20
XF	—	140	110
MS60	20	500	330
MS63	—	—	635

Comments: Comes nice. Breen reports that a hoard of 5 uncirculated rolls turned up in 1957. Judging from the population numbers, it is likely that most have not yet been certified.

Appendices





Appendix A

GLOSSARY

1947 – Refers to prices listed in the 1947 (1st edition) of the “Red Book.” An indication of 1947 retail prices.

1991 – Refers to prices listed in the 1991 (44th edition) of the “Red Book.” An indication of 1991 retail prices.

ANACS – A third-party certification service, formerly part of the American Numismatic Association. Now located in Columbus Ohio under different ownership.

BCCS – The Barber Coin Collectors’ Society.

CDN – The Coin Dealer Newsletter published in Torrance, California. CDN values in the year & mint mark analysis are based on the June 1991 CDN Monthly Summary

HUB – The coin design, in steel, used to make the working dies.

MUMPS – Refers to coins which exhibit a goiter-like swelling on the neck and jaw of Liberty. Found on quite a few dates from 1901 to 1909. Mostly, but not exclusively on O-mints. Usually not noticeable on coins below VF grade. Appears to have been caused by some sort of die buckling. (Also seen on Barber Quarters of the same period.)

NGC – Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America. The NGC Census Report of June 1991 was used to tally the population of NGC certified coins in the date by date descriptions

O-MINT – New Orleans Mint. An O-mint coin was made in New Orleans

PCGS – Professional Coin Grading Service. The PCGS Population Report of June 1991 was used to tally the population of PCGS certified coins in the date by date descriptions

P/L – Proof-like.

PHILIPPINE HOARD COINS – Refers to coins originally sent to the Philippines for local use, hoards of which periodically show up in the U.S. in relatively high circulated grades. The predominant dates are 1898-S, 1899-S and 1900-S. Most are cleaned XF and AU’s.

PLANCHET STRIATIONS – Light parallel lines in the planchet before striking due to wearing of the roller fingers that flatten the planchet stock before stamping. Not limited to Barber Halves. Seem to occur most often in S-mint coins.

PRESENTATION PIECE – Coins which were specially prepared and handled for presentation to “important” dignitaries. Often the first or one of the first coins struck on new dies and having deep proof-like fields (see 1906-D).

PROOF-LIKE – Refers to coins that have mirror (reflective) fields, as proof coins do.

RANKING – The ranking from low to high in relation to the other 73 coins of the series. For example, a coin whose mintage ranks 5/73 has the 5th lowest mintage of the series. In the case of certified mint state or proof coins, the ranking is based on the total number graded by PCGS and NGC combined in their respective June 1991 reports.

RARITY RATING – The scarcity of the coin relative to others in the series. See Chapter 3, ESTIMATING SCARCITY.

RED BOOK – “A Guide Book of United States Coins” by R.S. Yeoman, published by Western Publishing Co. of Racine, WI. It is considered a retail price guide.

RPD – Repunched date. A date that shows signs of numerals underneath, indicating the date was punched in more than once. The entire date may be doubled, or it may show in only one or two numerals.

RPM – Repunched mint mark. The mint mark has been punched into the die twice resulting in a doubled mint mark on the coin. Since the doubling appears on the die itself, identical specimens are produced and the variety is considered “collectible.” See 1907-S/S.

Appendix B

STATISTICS

TABLE 1 The number and rank of Barber Halves in mint state graded by PCGS and NGC combined (as of June, 1991).

RANKING	DATE	NUMBER	RANKING	DATE	NUMBER
1	1904-S	11	38	1905-O	52
2	1896-O	13		1912-S	52
3	1901-S	17	40	1892-S	54
4	1900-S	20	41	1894-O	57
5	1898-S	21		1899-O	57
	1907-S	21	43	1914-P	58
7	1900-O	22	44	1901-P	62
8	1901-O	24		1910-P	62
	1902-S	24	46	1894-P	63
	1903-P	24	47	1908-P	66
11	1893-S	25	48	1893-O	69
	1905-S	25		1895-P	69
13	1896-S	26		1914-S	69
14	1898-O	27	51	1913-D	72
15	1908-S	28	52	1897-P	73
16	1899-S	30		1911-D	73
	1902-O	30	54	1893-P	81
18	1911-S	31	55	1892-O	89
19	1904-O	32	56	1906-D	90
20	1897-S	33		1907-D	90
	1904-P	33	58	1899-P	97
22	1903-O	35	59	1898-P	100
23	1909-S	36	60	1907-O	103
24	1897-O	37	61	1900-P	104
25	1910-S	38	62	1902-P	109
26	1896-P	39	63	1908-D	134
	1915-P	39	64	1907-P	137
28	1906-O	41	65	1908-O	144
29	1903-S	45		1915-S	144
	1913-P	45	67	1911-P	145
31	1894-S	46	68	1906-P	148
	1905-P	46	69	1912-P	164
	1913-S	46	70	1909-P	175
34	1895-O	47	71	1912-D	184
35	1895-S	49	72	1915-D	233
	1909-O	49	73	1892-P	468
37	1906-S	50			

NOTE These numbers may be higher than the actual number of coins, as some of the coins may have been submitted (and therefore counted) more than once.

TABLE 2. The rank and number of Barber Halves in proof certified by PCGS and NGC combined [as of June, 1991].

RANK	DATE	NUMBER	% of Mintage
1	1908	134	24.6
2	1907	139	24.2
3	1915	141	31.3
4	1914	144	37.9
5	1913	151	24.1
6	1912	164	23.4
7	1905	165	22.7
	1902	165	21.2
9	1910	172	31.2
10	1899	178	21.0
11	1903	186	24.6
12	1896	187	24.5
13	1893	192	24.2
14	1901	194	23.9
15	1909	195	30.0
	1906	195	28.9
17	1900	197	21.6
18	1911	201	37.0
	1897	201	27.5
20	1904	215	32.1
21	1898	230	31.3
22	1895	234	26.6
23	1894	260	26.7
24	1892	263	21.1

TABLE 3 Rank of Barber Halves by mintage (rounded to nearest thousand).

RANK	DATE	NUMBER	RANK	DATE	NUMBER
1	1914-P	125,000	38	1908-S	1,645,000
2	1915-P	138,000	39	1899-S	1,686,000
3	1913-P	189,000	40	1899-O	1,724,000
4	1892-O	390,000	41	1906-S	1,740,000
5	1910-P	419,000	42	1909-S	1,764,000
6	1905-O	505,000	43	1895-O	1,766,000
7	1913-D	534,000	44	1893-P	1,827,000
8	1904-S	553,000	45	1895-P	1,835,000
9	1913-S	604,000	46	1903-S	1,921,000
10	1897-O	632,000	47	1910-S	1,948,000
11	1905-P	663,000	48	1903-O	2,100,000
12	1911-D	695,000	49	1894-O	2,138,000
13	1893-S	740,000	50	1903-P	2,279,000
14	1901-S	847,000	51	1912-D	2,301,000
15	1898-O	874,000	52	1898-S	2,359,000
16	1896-O	924,000	53	1909-P	2,369,000
17	1909-O	925,000	54	1906-O	2,446,000
18	1897-S	934,000	55	1897-P	2,481,000
19	1892-P	935,000	56	1905-S	2,494,000
20	1896-P	951,000	57	1902-O	2,526,000
21	1914-S	992,000	58	1900-S	2,560,000
22	1892-S	1,029,000	59	1907-P	2,599,000
23	1895-S	1,108,000	60	1906-P	2,639,000
24	1904-O	1,118,000	61	1900-O	2,744,000
25	1901-O	1,124,000	62	1898-P	2,957,000
26	1896-S	1,141,000	63	1904-P	2,993,000
27	1894-P	1,149,000	64	1908-D	3,280,000
28	1915-D	1,170,000	65	1907-D	3,856,000
29	1907-S	1,250,000	66	1907-O	3,947,000
30	1911-S	1,272,000	67	1906-D	4,028,000
31	1908-P	1,355,000	68	1894-S	4,049,000
32	1912-S	1,370,000	69	1901-P	4,269,000
33	1893-O	1,389,000	70	1900-P	4,763,000
34	1911-P	1,407,000	71	1902-P	4,923,000
35	1902-S	1,461,000	72	1908-O	5,360,000
36	1912-P	1,551,000	73	1899-P	5,539,000
37	1915-S	1,604,000			

TABLE 4. Historical Red Book prices for Barber Halves

GRADE	1947	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
A. THE ENTIRE SET						
GOOD	—	—	251.00	389.75	711.00	1,005.00
FINE	200.25	228.00	822.75	945.75	1,746.00	2,528.00
MS60	1,190.00	1,330.00	6,159.00	11,250.00	41,585.00	48,100.00
B. A COMMON DATE (1915-D)						
GOOD	—	—	1.50	2.00	3.75	5.50
FINE	1.75	1.75	6.00	5.00	11.00	23.00
XF	—	—	19.00	25.00	115.00	130.00
MS60	8.00	7.50	65.00	95.00	500.00	525.00
C. A BETTER DATE (1908-5)						
GOOD	—	—	1.50	2.50	3.75	5.50
FINE	2.50	2.50	6.00	8.00	11.00	24.00
XF	—	—	20.00	27.50	115.00	175.00
MS60	20.00	20.00	75.00	110.00	525.00	575.00
D. A KEY DATE (1904-5)						
GOOD	—	—	6.50	8.50	10.00	13.00
FINE	7.50	7.50	35.00	25.00	35.00	40.00
XF	—	—	75.00	100.00	155.00	300.00
MS60	60.00	65.00	315.00	435.00	750.00	1,100.00

NOTE: Statistics compiled by Steve Epstein

Appendix C

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&

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MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Walter Breen – A numismatic author of many books, from California.

Larry Briggs – An Ohio coin dealer specializing in seated coinage.

Phil Carrigan – An Illinois collector, active in the Barber Society.

Steve Epstein – President, Barber Coin Collectors' Society (BCCS).

David Lange – A Numismatist and author from northern California.

Tom Mulvaney – A professional numismatic photographer from Lexington, Kentucky.

J.T. Stanton – Co-author of the Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties.

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Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America encourages all numismatic coin collectors and investors to seek the counsel of qualified numismatists familiar with the certified coin marketplace before making any purchase based upon this Report.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Lawrence is the pen name of David Feigenbaum, a Virginia coin dealer specializing in the Barber series. Born in New York City in 1941, Dave's interest in these coins began in 1951 when his uncle took him to meetings of the Brooklyn Coin Club. In those days, Barbers could still be found in circulation, although well worn, and everyone kept lots of change for the subways and trolley cars.

Dave studied engineering at Cornell University and has a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Miami. He began his coin business, David Lawrence Rare Coins, in 1979 as a weekend pursuit and today is involved full time.



